

Cloud upon our Provincial Transactions, will be evaded, and the Merits of the contending Parties fairly laid before the impartial Tribunal of the Public, without being perplexed with the Forms of Parliamentary Proceedings, or obstructed by the Machinery and Influence of Government.—I will now proceed to my Remarks upon the Message, and will promise my Reader, if he is a Friend to Maryland, and a Friend to Truth, with a small Share of Sensibility, his Disgust at any seeming Acrimony, or Intemperance of Expression, will vanish, when he has duly weighed and considered the Provocation.

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Their Honours very unfortunately set out with two Allegations against the Message of the Lower House.

First, That they set up for an unrivalled Zeal for his Majesty's Service.

Secondly, That they arrogate to themselves the Rights and Powers of a British House of Commons.

First, I have perused the Message of the Lower House over and again, and cannot find any Passage in it claiming an unrivalled Zeal for His Majesty's Service. It seems to me, that their Honours have set out with a Resolution to be very prolix and long-winded, and to be determined, whenever the Message does not afford them sufficient Matter for Declamation, to supply the Defect by Fictions of their own, imputed to the Lower House, without the least Colour of Evidence. I shall not dispute their Right to treat the Creatures of their own Imagination in any Manner they think proper, but it is very hard that they should lay at the Door of others their own legitimate Issue, because it happens to be deformed. To an Allegation unsupported by Evidence, a bare Denial is a sufficient Answer, and therefore I shall decline saying any Thing on this Head, until some Passages out of the Message of the Lower House be produced to shew, that they set up for an unrivalled Zeal for His Majesty's Service.

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Secondly, Before I proceed to a Confutation of the second Charge, I must beg Leave just to take Notice, that their Honours have misrecited the Message, when they alledge, that the Lower House claim the Rights and Powers of the House of Commons. They do indeed mention Rights and Privileges, but as to Powers, it is a Word their Honours have, in the Plentitude of their Power to make the Lower House say just what they please, substituted in the Place of the Word Privileges. What Difference there is in the Import of the Terms, needs no Explanation; nor can it be supposed that their Honours intended the Alteration for any other Purpose, than to give a worse Construction of the Views of the Lower House than perhaps might have been warranted by the Word they have thought fit to discard.—How disingenuous is such a Conduct!